727 when visited by UNRRA Mission observers, Brest was found to be about 50 percent. destroyed, and with a population estimated at 35 to 40 thousand, making it no more than the sixth city in size in the B.S.S.R. Baranovichi, also visited by UNRRA observers in August 1946, was found half demolished and with a population of 20,000. The municipal economy had been so little developed in Baranovichi that the Oblast Soviet Chairman, speaking before the Byelorussian Supreme Soviet as a Deputy in September 1946, asked that five million roubles be allocated in the Five Year Plan for the construction of a water works and sewer system in the city.

438 185 During the Five Year Plan, 1946-50, considerable industrial expansion is planned for the western oblasts. If the Plan is fulfilled, they will contribute about one-fourth of the Republic's total industrial output in 1950.

Among the new industries scheduled for construction in the western areas is a sugar refinery of 6,000 tons annual capacity, to be located in the Grodno oblast. In the city of Grodno will be built a woollen cloth factory which, together with a new factory to be constructed in Minsk, will produce 1.6 million metres of woollens in 1950. At Lida in Baranovichi oblast is to be founded a rubber shoe-sole factory which by 1950 is to produce half the requirements of the B.S.S.R.'s shoe industry. A sheepskin overcoat factory is to be built at Pinsk. New bread factories are to be put in operation in Grodno, Brest, and Pinsk; a food concentrates plant will be built at Lida; and the meat-packing plant at Baranovichi is scheduled for restoration.

377 185 Electric power stations are to be restored in Grodno and Brest, while new ones will be built in Baranovichi, Lida, Pinsk, and Molodechno. Hydro-electric stations will be constructed also, among them a station on the Shar river at Slonim and a larger station of 7,000 kilowatts at the Vileia waterfall in Molodechno oblast. As has been stated earlier, electric power facilities are a major need in the western oblasts, which in 1938 supplied only 0.5 per cent. of the electricity in pre-war Poland.

•508 Also to be built at Brest is one of the Republic's three largest airports; the other two to be in Gomel and Minsk.

German Destruction of Industry

727 The destruction of Byelorussian industry by the Germans during the war was savage, systematic, and complete. At the Minsk trial of war criminals in January 1946 it was charged that the Germans had demolished or transferred to Germany the buildings and equipment of 10,338 of the B.S.S.R.'s industrial enterprises. The methods employed for this destruction were identical throughout the Republic.

In Minsk, for example, the industrial enterprises had been turned over to four or five German firms (Borman, Schorowa Werk, Trebotz, Schlachthof, and Trol), which carried off to Germany or to German-occupied territories, all the equipment and machinery which was of any